

On behalf of Sen. Duff, you asked for statistics on COVID-related school closings, COVID positivity rates, and child hospitalizations because of COVID for states with and without school mask mandates for the first two weeks of September compared with Connecticut's.

As shown in the table below:

- Connecticut is one of 17 states that had a statewide mask mandate for schools during this period.
- Connecticut had two reported school closures and no district-wide closures during this period.
- Connecticut's COVID test positivity rate (3.4% each week during this period) was among the lowest in the nation (by comparison, over 20 states had rates of 10% or more for at least one of these weeks).
- Connecticut's 7-day average for childhood hospital admissions with COVID was 1 to 2 throughout this period.

Please note the following about the table data:

- Primary sources are cited in column headings, but deviations from the sources are noted in individual table cells.
- Our primary source for school and district closure data allows for public reporting of school closings, which makes the data subject to change daily. This data (1) ranges from one day to more than one week and (2) captures closures that commenced during or immediately before the period in question.
- States that have no closure data may have schools or districts not captured by the source, as the data is not exhaustive.
- As further explained in the linked sources below, COVID positivity rate and hospital admissions data may be adjusted slightly over time (e.g., due to delayed reporting by hospitals).

Table 1: School Mask Mandate, School Closure, and Select COVID-19 Statistics by State, Early September 2021

State	School Mask Mandate ¹	School Closings ⁸ (Any length, commencing 8/25/21 through 9/17/21 or shortly before)	COVID-19 Positivity Rate ⁹		New Hospital Admissions (Under Age 18) with Confirmed COVID-19 ¹⁰		
			(9/1/21 through 9/7/21)	(9/8/21 through 9/14/21)	7-Day Average (9/1/21 through 9/7/21)	7-Day Average (9/8/21 through 9/14/21)	Per 100,000 Population (9/14/21)
Alabama	Local flexibility given by state education agency	Over 20 schools closed or remote throughout 6 counties 6 other counties completely remote for all schools	20.4	16.8	13	9	0.79
Alaska	Local flexibility given by state education agency	4 schools closed	9.1	10.4	1	1	0.48
Arizona	Ban on local mask requirements by the legislature		10.8	10.8	6	5	0.31
Arkansas	Ban on local mask requirements by the legislature (on hold pending appeal to the state's Supreme Court) ²		9.9	9.6	2	4	0.55
California	Masks required by state health authority	10 schools remote or closed among 8 districts 2 other districts entirely remote or closed	4.3	3.5	16	14	0.16
Colorado	Local flexibility given by state health authority	11 schools remote or closed among 9 districts	6.5	6.3	6	5	0.36

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			(9/1/21 through 9/7/21)	(9/8/21 through 9/14/21)	7-Day Average (9/1/21 through 9/7/21)	7-Day Average (9/8/21 through 9/14/21)	Per 100,000 Population (9/14/21)
Connecticut	Masks required by the governor	2 remote schools among 2 districts	3.4	3.4	1	2	0.24
Delaware	Masks required by the governor		8.2	8.8	1	1	0.70
Florida	Ban on local mask requirements for students by the governor; no action taken for teacher masks	3 schools closed among 3 counties 2 other counties entirely closed	13.9	13.2	49	44	1.05
Georgia	Local flexibility given by state health authority	Over 30 schools remote, hybrid, or closed Over 20 other counties entirely remote, hybrid, or closed	16.4	14.7	51	56	2.23
Hawaii	Masks required by the state board of education	1 remote – public charter school	7.7	7.5	1	0	0.14
Idaho	Local flexibility given by the state board of education	14 schools closed, hybrid, or remote among 11 districts	22.3	22.2	1	1	0.19
Illinois	Masks required by the governor	7 schools remote among 5 districts; 3 other districts entirely remote or closed	4.8	4.2	6	5	0.19

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Indiana	Local flexibility given by the governor	7 schools remote among 4 districts 4 other districts entirely remote	14.3	14.4	10	9	0.56
Iowa	Ban on local mask requirements by the governor		12.2	12.3	3	3	0.41
Kansas	Local flexibility given by the legislature	All schools closed among 4 districts	11.1	10.5	3	3	0.47
Kentucky	Local flexibility given by the legislature	3 schools remote or closed among 2 districts 37 other districts and counties entirely remote or closed	16.3	14.4	4	4	0.43
Louisiana	Masks required by the governor	4 schools remote among 3 districts	10.8	7.5	7	4	0.39
Maine	Local flexibility given by state education agency	9 schools remote or closed among 8 districts	5.3	4.7	1	0	0.17
Maryland	Masks required by the state board of education	1 school remote	6.9	5.2	2	2	0.16
Massachusetts	Masks required by state education agency	1 school closed	2.4	2.3	1	1	0.05
Michigan	Local flexibility given by the governor	1 district entirely remote	8.9	9.0	2	3	0.14

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Minnesota	Local flexibility given by the governor		7.2	7.0	2	2	0.19
Mississippi	Local flexibility given by state health authority	Over 20 schools remote or hybrid among 12 districts 1 other county entirely closed	18.9	15.4	7	3	0.39
Missouri	Local flexibility given by state education agency	2 schools remote among 2 districts 1 other district entirely closed	11.1	10.2	6	6	0.44
Montana	Ban on local mask requirements by the state health authority	1 school remote 6 other districts entirely remote or closed	13.8	15.4	2	3	1.19
Nebraska	Local flexibility given by the state board of education		12.9	13.6	2	1	0.27
Nevada	Masks required by state health authority	2 remote schools in one district 1 other district entirely remote	11.4	11.8	2	1	0.19

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New Hampshire	Local flexibility given by state health authority		5.0	4.8	0	0	0.00
New Jersey	Masks required by the governor	1 remote school	6.1	5.7	2	2	0.10
New Mexico	Masks required by state education agency	4 remote schools among 2 districts	8.1	7.5	1	1	0.21
New York	Masks required by the governor	1 remote school 1 other district entirely remote	4.1	3.9	8	7	0.17
North Carolina	Local flexibility given by the governor	14 schools remote or closed among 6 districts 2 other districts entirely remote	12.6	11.6	8	7	0.30
North Dakota	Ban on state, but not local, mask requirements by the legislature ³		8.7	9.0	1	0	0.24
Ohio	Local flexibility given by state health authority	8 schools remote or closed among 6 districts 5 other districts entirely remote or closed	13.7	13.4	11	15	0.59

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			(9/1/21 through 9/7/21)	(9/8/21 through 9/14/21)	7-Day Average (9/1/21 through 9/7/21)	7-Day Average (9/8/21 through 9/14/21)	Per 100,000 Population (9/14/21)
Oklahoma	Ban on local mask requirements by the legislature	Over 20 schools remote or closed among 18 districts Over 20 other districts entirely remote or closed	19.9	18.3	3	4	0.42
Oregon	Masks required by the governor	2 remote schools among 2 districts 2 other districts entirely remote	10.5	10.8	2	2	0.25
Pennsylvania	Masks required by the state health agency ⁴	9 remote schools among 9 districts 2 other entirely remote or closed districts	8.8	8.7	6	9	0.33
Rhode Island	Masks required by governor ⁵	1 school closed	2.6	2.4	0	0	0.07
South Carolina	Ban on local mask requirements by the legislature	13 remote schools among 12 districts 3 other districts entirely remote	12.6	12.2	7	6	0.54
South Dakota	Local flexibility given by the governor		18.7	18.3	1	1	0.39

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Tennessee	Ban on local mask requirements by governor (blocked by federal judge) ⁶	4 schools remote or closed among 4 counties 15 other counties entirely closed	19.4	18.6	14	11	0.73
Texas	Ban on local mask requirements by governor	Over 20 schools remote or closed among 17 districts Over 40 other entirely closed districts	14.3	13.2	65	52	0.70
Utah	Ban on local mask requirements by the legislature	1 school closed	10.5	11.2	2	4	0.48
Vermont	Local flexibility (granting authority not specified)	3 remote or closed schools among 3 districts	4.3	4.0	0	0	0.25
Virginia	Masks required by state health authority ⁷	8 remote or closed schools among 7 districts 6 other counties entirely remote or closed	10.7	10.4	9	16	0.87

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Washington	Masks required by state health authority		According to CDC report, unavailable due to technical issues.		2	3	0.10
West Virginia	Local flexibility given by state education agency	15 schools remote or closed among 10 counties 5 other counties entirely remote	13.3	13.9	4	5	1.31
Wisconsin	Local flexibility given by state board of education	3 remote schools among 2 districts 2 other districts entirely remote or closed	9.4	9.1	4	3	0.26
Wyoming	Local flexibility given by the governor		10.3	11.3	0	0	0.32

Sources:

¹ University of Washington Bothell's Center on Reinventing Public Education, "State Guidance on School Reopenings Amid the Pandemic: 2021 State Database," <https://www.crpe.org/current-research/state-responses-covid-19>, last visited September 21, 2021.

² Arkansas Democrat Gazette, "Cabot mask mandate lawsuit tossed by judge," <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2021/aug/28/school-masks-lawsuit-is-tossed/>, August 28, 2021.

³ Fargo Public Schools, "What the Statewide Mask Mandate Ban Means for Fargo Public Schools," https://www.fargo.k12.nd.us/cms/lib/ND01911460/Centricity/domain/94/2020-21/miscellaneous/04292021_McCormick_Mask_Message_House_Bill_1323.pdf last visited September 21, 2021.

⁴ Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Answers to FAQs,” <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/MaskingOrder/Pages/FAQs.aspx>, last visited September 21, 2021.

⁵ Executive Order 21-87 by Rhode Island Governor Daniel J. McKee, <https://governor.ri.gov/executive-orders/executive-order-21-87>, last visited September 21, 2021.

⁶ Jurist, “Federal court blocks parents in Tennessee from opting out of school mask mandates,” <https://www.jurist.org/news/2021/09/federal-court-blocks-parents-in-tennessee-from-opting-out-of-school-mask-mandates/>, last visited September 21, 2021.

⁷ Virginia Department of Education, “2021-2022 School Year Frequently Asked Questions,” https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19-faq-reopening.shtml#:~:text=at%20a%20school-,The%20State%20Health%20Commissioner%20issued%20a%20Public%20Health%20Order%20requiring,settings%2C%20regardless%20of%20vaccination%20status., last visited September 21, 2021.

⁸ Burbio’s K-12 School Opening Tracker, “2021/2022 School Disruptions,” <https://cai.burbio.com/school-opening-tracker/>, last visited September 22, 2021.

⁹ Healthdata.gov, [COVID-19 State Profile Report - Combined Set](#), 09.17.2021 report, Nucleic Acid Amplification Test Positivity Rate (see first page for each state, Last Week and Change from Previous Week columns).

¹⁰ CDC, COVID Data Tracker, [New Hospital Admissions](#) (search by state and 0-17 age group; click graph to select desired date (Sept. 14); website last visited Sept. 23, 2021).